

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	USSR/Hungary/Austria (Soviet Zone)	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Soviet Military Manpower	DATE DISTR.	14 February 1955
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This is UNEVALUATED Information

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

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Comment: Page 4, line 7, refers to the Mechanical (Watch) Works No. 2, Moscow. this factory made hands, faces, and cases for table clocks and pendulum wall clocks and assembled the clocks with mechanisms obtained elsewhere. The factory did not manufacture watches.

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ARMY review completed.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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STATE	#X	ARMY	#X	NAVY	#X	AIR	#X	FBI	#X	AEC	#X	#X	#X	#X	#X
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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

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COUNTRY USSR/Hungary/Austria (Soviet Zone)

DATE DISTR. 8 Dec 1954

SUBJECT Soviet Military Manpower

NO. OF PAGES 20

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A. MOBILIZATION AND DEMOBILIZATION1. Registration

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a. First Appearance

[redacted] a notice to report 25X1
the following day to the rayon voyenkomat (regional military commissariat).
The notice was signed by the Chief of the Second Section, a Captain
Solov'yev (fnu).

[redacted]
(The voyenkomat was located on Bolshaya Yakimanka ulitsa, Moscow).
[redacted] directed to 47 Donskaya ulitsa.

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The first floor of the building on Donskaya ulitsa was the
Textile Institute Club. In the main room were approximately 100 men,
[redacted] Some of the men remained
outside as the room could not hold everyone.

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The men were called alphabetically to the second floor. [redacted]

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[redacted] a small room that contained three stools. Here were four other men; two were getting dressed; two were getting undressed. [redacted]

[redacted] a large room where several doctors were checking men in an assembly-line manner. [redacted]

[redacted] a woman doctor, who checked teeth, filled out an examination form, made an appointment for dental work, [redacted] the next doctor, also a woman.

According to a sign on her desk, this doctor was a neuropathologist. [redacted]

another woman doctor.

This doctor checked [redacted] lungs and heart with a stethoscope, tapped a small rubber-tipped hammer all over [redacted] chest and back. and used a sphygmomanometer to measure [redacted]

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[redacted] a fourth woman doctor, who poked her fingers deep under [redacted] ribs and [redacted] abdomen, examined [redacted] genitals, and checked for haemorrhoids and ruptures. [redacted] a table where an army officer of unknown rank was sitting.

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b. Second Appearance

[redacted] report to the Second City (Vezbrod) Hospital at 1200 hours. [redacted] At the hospital, [redacted] a very large group of men waiting for physical examination. [redacted] there were more than 200.)

[redacted]

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[redacted] a waiting group, Capt. Solov'yev came up and addressed the group. He instructed everyone to form into ranks. After the men achieved a semblance of a military formation, Capt. Solov'yev stated that he had some work for the group. At this, several men complained and broke ranks. The captain tried to force them to rejoin the formation and, failing to do this, tried to find out their names.

A nurse came out of the hospital and handed him a list of names. [redacted] about 20 men, re-entered the hospital.

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This group of 20 were called into the hospital and sent in turn to a dark room containing a fluoroscope. Here [redacted] had his chest re-examined by doctors.

[redacted]

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[redacted] reported to the voyenkomat, [redacted] received a white registration booklet with the title, "Induction Certificate" (Pripisnoye Svidetel'stvo), lettered in blue. [redacted]

[redacted]

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[redacted] At the voyenkomat were about 40 other men. This group was marched several blocks into the basement of a new building, (address unknown). Here, according to a sign over the door, were several radio classrooms belonging to DOSARM (The Society for Cooperation with the Army). [redacted] early in 1951 DOSAAF (The Society for Cooperation with the Army, Navy, and Air Forces) came into being and that, in all probability, the sign had not been changed.)

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The group was then told that it would be expected to report nightly after work, except Saturday and Sunday, at 1800 hours for radio training. Each class was to last four hours.

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given under DOSAAF auspices the "110 hours" training

the rating of radio operator third class.
this was the lowest rating for radio code operators.)

as members of the group of 40
started were of various levels of education. Some
had not completed the seventh class.

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c. Third Appearance

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At the First City Hospital [] a group of 20 to 30 men. A woman recorded [] arrival and took [] identity document and induction certificate.

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The male doctor came out into the hall and called out about 15 names [] and handed each man an induction notice and his identity document.

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The induction notice [] had his name typed on it and the following directions: He was to report to the Textile Institute's Club at 0600 hours on 13 September 1951. He was to bring with him the notice, an extra set of underwear, a spoon, a drinking mug, and sufficient food for three days. He was to be suitably attired and wear seasonal footgear. [] "suitably attired" meant to be dressed in something better than rags. He was also to have his hair cut completely off.

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[] immunization shots had any blood, stool, or urine specimens taken for laboratory analysis.

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Induction

at the Textile Institute's Club. [] about 40 other inductees and about 200 other people. The majority of them were either intoxicated or had bad hangovers. [] an unknown army officer was in charge and handed []

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After an hour, two trucks drove up and the officer instructed all the inductees to mount. The officer got into the cab of one of the trucks and a policeman climbed into the back of each truck with the men. [] the policeman's function was to keep drunks from falling out.

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The trucks took them to the Krasnaya Presnya railroad station in Moscow. There were about 500 other inductees at the railroad station. The officer took [] group to a public bath to sober up []

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this was necessary as this station was also a prison loading and unloading point with criminals in the area.

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When [] group returned to the waiting room, it was divided into platoons and a sergeant took charge of each platoon. [] these sergeants came from nearby units, specifically for this trip. They were from various branches - infantry, artillery, and tank.) At this time, some navy officers addressed the group and asked if there were any who desired service with the fleet. [] Those who desired to serve in the navy were gathered into a group and led away.

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An officer took [] three other men to a military truck. This detail went to a nearby military ration dump and drew rations for the entire group, and then loaded them into a freight car of a train standing in the station. The rest of the men had already boarded this train. After unloading the rations, [] the [] men rejoined their platoons on the train.

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The freight car [] carried two platoons of about 30 men each. The car had three tiers of boards running from wall to wall on either side of the door. Each tier held about ten men. The sergeants slept with their platoons. There were no mattresses or bedding.

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[] rations were brought to each car by men from other cars under the supervision of a sergeant. The rations consisted of small round loaves of black bread, butter, and sausage. They were placed in the center of each freight car on the floor and personnel were told to help themselves. Hot water was boiled on the train and brought in a bucket to each car for drinking at infrequent intervals during stops. [] although the food was better tasting than normal Soviet Army rations, most of the men refused to eat it. They ate the three-day supply of food they had brought with them and drank vodka, of which everyone seemed to have a plentiful supply. [] at first the issued bread was passed out by the men to women working along the tracks and that finally, as everyone became intoxicated, it was thrown from the freight cars at railroad workers.

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The train left the railroad station at about 1700 hours after several false starts and followed the railroad branch in the direction Gor'kiy (N 56-17, E 43-55). [] two towns through which the train passed. Kovrov (N 56-25, E 41-18) and Vladimir (N 56-10, E 40-25).

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The train made a two-hour stop at Gor'kiy and the men were permitted to leave the train under supervision of the sergeants.

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At 2400 hours on 14 September 1951, the train pulled into an unknown railroad station not far from Mulino (N 56-17, E 42-56). The group unloaded, [] it had nearly doubled in size, as somewhere enroute other cars had been attached. [] probably 1000 men unloaded from the train. After unloading, the men were divided into two groups and one group was marched away. [] these men were sent to an armored unit for their basic training. The remaining group, [] was marched off to the artillery area. (Note: See page 20 for strip map of source's [])

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3. Rejections and Deferments

[] only two men who were rejected for military service. Both were disqualified at the first physical examination; one for tuberculosis and the other for extreme nearsightedness. He was unable to read the largest letter on the eye chart. [] the seriously ill, e.g., tuberculosis, and the badly crippled were rejected.

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been deferred because they were enrolled in institutes such as mining and engineering schools. [redacted] five men [redacted] had [redacted] at least 15 others were deferred for the same reason. All of these men resided in Moscow. The only other deferment was of a man named Igor' Sergeyevich Koromyslov who was employed at the Moscow Aviation Plant No. 300 and was reputedly deferred from military service because of his job.

[redacted]

military service was not prerequisite to higher educational institution attendance. [redacted] there was quite a number of veterans who were attending school but that they did not receive any assistance or encouragement from the government. [redacted] upon enrollment at any school, a student was required to present a document indicating his draft status, such as an induction or discharge certificate. [redacted] those who completed a higher educational institution were not necessarily subject to induction even if they had no prior military service. These people normally were immediately employed in their specialty on a permanent basis.

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[redacted] scientists, technicians, and teachers were not on mobilization plans for military service.

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4. Inductions for Labor Service

[redacted] no one [redacted] there was a special labor call-up in Moscow. [redacted] men were specially called up to fill occupation commitments and also were specially called for duty in the USSR, and [redacted] all men from a given call-up would generally go to the same type of assignment.

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5. Size of Shipments

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[redacted] from one of the large groups that arrived in Austria [redacted] 80 new men were assigned to the 55th Sep Tk Tng Bn for training.

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The class of 1933 arrived [redacted] in August and September 1952. There were, as usual, about 280 new arrivals.

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The class of 1934 arrived [redacted] in a body from the replacement training center in September 1953. Again, there were 280 new arrivals.

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note:

the complement of private-trainees of the 55th Sep Tk Tng Bn was renewed each year as the year's call-up would arrive in Austria. These personnel would complete the prescribed one year's training in whatever platoon of the two training companies they were assigned and would then be reassigned to other units of the 13th Gds Mecz Div. Thus, every year about the same number of personnel - approximately 280 privates - would be assigned to the unit for training.² The rest of the battalion - less than 100 men including officers and EM - made up the permanent cadre. The bulk of the enlisted cadre men were graduates of the training companies, re-assignees from other units of the division, or extended tour soldiers (sverkhsrochniki.)

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6. Journey to Austria

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All the personnel had been instructed almost from the time they started basic training that they were slated for service outside of the USSR and as to what disposition to make of their personal belongings. However, they were called into formation at approximately 0900 hours and the instructions were repeated. They were told to destroy all note and address books and to send home all photographs. They were also told to send home their books recording the amount of money deducted from their pay for the compulsory government loan.

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[redacted] platoon was then sent to a large ration dump to pick up bread for the troop train. Upon arrival at the dump, it was discovered that the bread had already been picked up by truck and they returned to the barracks. Arriving at the barracks at 1300 hours they were immediately marched 1½ km. to a railroad station. The rest of the trainees from the 82nd How Brig and other unknown units were already aboard the train.

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note: [redacted] the name of the railroad station was Krasnyy Drovosek or Krasnyy Lesorub. [redacted] it was not the regular passenger station but a freight loading point.)

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The train consisted of freight cars except for two cars which were called "pul'manovskiy vagon". These carried three 30-man platoons and had four axles. There were two freight loading doors on each side, and the three tiers of boards on which the EM slept were located at each end, and in the center of the car.

The total number of men loaded on the train was estimated by [redacted] to be around 800 to 1,000. [redacted] they were trainees from artillery units since they all seemed to be wearing artillery shoulderboards. [redacted] platoon arrived at the station, a sergeant came up and took over. The sergeant was armed with a PPSH SMG with one loaded drum and wore armored unit shoulderboards. There was a sergeant in charge of each car. (Note: [redacted] the entire group of sergeants was from the 17th Mecz. or Tk Div stationed in Hungary. [redacted] The sergeants did not reveal what unit they were from but did describe the type of food they received in their unit.)

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[redacted] all the sergeants wore shoulderboards that were embroidered instead of the conventional-type issued in the USSR.

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The train left at 1700 hours, going in the direction of Moscow and following the same route as upon his arrival in Mulino.

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there had been numerous stops enroute for loading additional rations and for unknown purposes.

the rations on this trip as far as the Hungarian border were worse in quality and quantity than on the previous trip. At first, the men were fed bread and sausage, then bread and butter, then plain dried bread, and finally for the last two meals, nothing at all. There was hot water available all the time for drinking.

The recruits and accompanying sergeants carried with them, one complete uniform, which they wore, an overcoat, and a winter hat. The recruits were not armed and carried their personal toilet articles and towels in their packs. There were no blankets or bedding of any type on the train. Each car had a small coal stove in the center which was tended by the men. There were no washing facilities.

As it approached Moscow, men began to jump from the train. By 1200 hours half of the men were AWOL. Some of the men called taxis from public phone booths and left promising to pay the drivers on arrival at their homes. there were numerous Komendatura patrols (infantry shoulderboards) intercepting the men and returning them to the train. the sergeants had no way of controlling the men and did not appear to even try. The men who had left the train caught up to it after it left Moscow at various points using civilian transportation. The last ones had to travel even as far as Chop (N 48-25, E 22-11) before they caught the train.

The first time the men had a chance to wash was in Moscow. Here hot water was brought out on the station platform and they washed quickly and ran back to the freight cars to dry and dress. In Moscow, the men who did not jump the train were marched into the area of an adjoining ration dump. Here they were brought into a large army mess for transients and fed a hot meal of oatmeal mush, at about 0500 hours. After this, relatives and friends arrived with warm clothing, food, and vodka.

At 1700 hours, after a 12-hour layover, the train left Moscow and arrived at 1720 hours in Lyubertsy (N 55-40, E 37-54). Here the train waited until 2400 hours and changed engines. From here it went by way of Serpukhov (N 54-54, E 37-24), Orel (N 52-55, E 36-00), and Bryansk (N 53-15, E 34-20), which was the last town in RSFSR that he remembered.

At Bryansk, an unknown number of freight cars was joined to the train. Men in these cars wore infantry shoulderboards. Here there was also a six-hour stop during which the recruits were marched to a large army transient mess where they were fed borshch. This meal was at 0200 hours, but source was not sure of the date.

Early in the morning of the same day the train again left and went through Shepetovka (N 51-26, E 35-09) and stopped at Gomel' (N 52-25, E 31-00). The men were again unloaded and, while the train waited three hours, they were fed in groups of about 400 to 500, a hot meal of buckwheat groat mush.

The train went on to Ovruch (N 51-18, E 28-48) and stopped.

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men on the train were wearing blue air force shoulderboards. There were two cars of these men.

(Note:

these were all cavalrymen who had taken basic training with an unidentified unit near Odessa (N 46-29, E 30-44)).³

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From here the train went through L'vov (N 49-50, E 24-00), Western Ukraine; Mukachevo (N 48-26, E 22-43), Western Carpathia; and stopped in Chop at 1700 hours on 15 November 1951. The men were immediately unloaded and instructed to transfer their belongings to another train. After their belongings were reloaded, the men were assembled on the platform and the platoons were re-organized.

At this time, border guard troops wearing green shoulderboards with unknown piping searched the arriving train for stragglers. A border guard officer told the train sergeants to collect all identification books and turn them to him. He then called off the men's names and, as each man stepped forward, he would shine a flashlight on his face and compare it with the photo in the book. He then would ask some item of information found in the book. [redacted] 25X1
The officer then returned the book to each man instructing him to get on the new train. [redacted] it was necessary to change trains because the gauge of tracks in Hungary was narrower than in the USSR.) 25X1

At 2400 hours on 15 November the train left Chop [redacted] 25X1
the train crossed a bridge over a river and [redacted] on one side was a booth with a Soviet sentry and on the other was a booth with a Hungarian guard.

The first town the train went through in Hungary was Zahony (N 48-24, E 22-16), then Komoro (N 48-18, E 22-05), and passed through Budapest at about 0100 hours on 17 November 1951. After Budapest the train went through Gyoer (N 47-41, E 17-38), and Hegyeshalom (N 47-54, E 17-11).

(Note: [redacted] while they travelled within the geographical limits of the USSR, the food on the train was generally very poor, consisting of bread of poor quality, butter or sausage, and hot water and sugar. After crossing into Hungary, special dishes were distributed to each freight car and a hot, liquid, soup-like mush was served from special buckets. This food was prepared in a special kitchen car on the train.) 25X1

After Hegyeshalom, the train crossed the border into Austria and passed through Bruck (N 48-01, E 16-46) and stopped at the railroad station of Wilfleinsdorf (N 48-00, E 16-43) at 0015 hours on 18 November 1951. Here all the men were unloaded and marched through the village of Wilfleinsdorf to Kaisersteinbruck (N 47-59, E 16-42), arriving at old German concentration camp 17A at 0100 hours. [redacted] at this time there were 1,200 to 1,500 men in his group. 25X1

7. Processing in Austria

They were met at the camp, the location of the 67th Repl Depot of CGFA, by a band and an unknown general from CGFA. The general made a rousing welcoming speech and the men were permitted to go to bed, until 0500 hours. At 0500 hours, [redacted] about 10 [redacted] men [redacted] 25X1
awakened. They were marched into an office where a few officers and clerks asked questions and filled out sheets of paper. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] asked about place and date of birth, home address, education, and knowledge of foreign languages. [redacted] all ten men were asked the same questions.)

The replacements were all awakened at 0900 hours and mustered in front of the barracks for half an hour of PT. They were then permitted to wash and assembled in the barracks for a regular morning inspection. The sergeants who had brought the group to Austria took the inspection and reported any deficiencies to a corporal of the 67th Repl Depot. After inspection, the group had its first meal of the day; borshch, mush, and tea. They were returned to the barracks and were free until 1500 hours, when they again had the same type meal minus the tea.

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Officers from the 67th Repl Depot came to the barracks and orientated the men informally with the aid of maps. These officers told the men that they were in Austria and showed them roughly the outlines of the Soviet Zone. Some of the officers took the men on an informal tour of the camp and showed them the old death chamber where inmates had been executed when the camp was a concentration camp.

At the camp the meals were all about the same as stated in the previous paragraph. The men slept in barracks with double-tiered flooring for bunks. [redacted] all the bedding appeared very new. Each man had two blankets, two sheets, and a straw-filled mattress.

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8. Assignment to Unit in Austria⁴

On the morning of 20 November 1951, about 30 officers ranging in rank from lieutenant to lieutenant colonel arrived from different units. At about 0900 hours, the men were formed into ranks and divided by officers of the 67th Repl Depot into groups by educational level. The officers then began to divide the men into other groups, each attempting to gain a fair distribution of the better-educated soldiers. [redacted] there was a considerable amount of bickering and argument among the officers as each attempted to get a higher percentage of the better-educated men.

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After the division, the men were formed into groups by the visiting officers, issued dried bread, and marched off. [redacted] group consisted of about 40 men and the battalion commander [redacted]

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[redacted] group out of the camp to a 1½-ton ZIS-5 truck from the battalion. He ordered all the men to mount with their bags and then climbed into the cab.

The truck drove through the villages of Sommerlin (N 47-59, E 16-39) and Mannersdorf (N 47-58, E 16-36) and arrived in 1½ hours at the military community of Goetzendorf, 55th Sep Tk Tng Bn area.

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9. Year Classes

[redacted] unit was a training battalion and as such all its new replacements were assigned as tank crew trainees. [redacted]

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[redacted] there were about 280 private trainees, all from the 1953 call-up. (These were practically all of the class of 1934.) There were three privates assigned as battalion cadre also from the class of 1934. These were: the chief clerk of the battalion staff, a cobbler, and the tailor.

There were about seven privates of the class of 1933 assigned as cadre. Six of these were in the Tk Supply Co and one was the company clerk (kaptenarmus) of the 1st Tng Co.

There were four privates of the class of 1932 in the battalion, one private from the class of 1931, and one from the 1928 class. The last two had both been called up with the class of 1932 which entered service in 1951. All six were cadre personnel.

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[redacted] all sergeants of the 55th Sep Tk Tng Bn were 25X1
cadre. [redacted] 18 sergeants were of class 1933 and another
twenty were of class 1932. [redacted] Six sergeants were of the
1931 class. These were extended tour soldiers (sverkhsrochniki). Six
sergeants were of class 1930; they were also on an extended tour.
[redacted] note: [redacted] it was inaccurate to refer 25X1
to personnel as members of the class of a given birth year.
[redacted] although most of the personnel called up in a given year were of
the same age, there were always exceptions who were called at the same
time and could be anywhere from a year to two older. In one case, as
shown in paragraph A5, a man born in 1928 was called up with the class
of 1932.)

10. Demobilization

[redacted] only cadre personnel were in long enough to be 25X1
demobilized. Trainees, upon completing their training, were either assigned
to the battalion as cadre or assigned to other units of the 13th Gds Mecz
Div. Generally, men were demobilized by groups divided roughly into
geographic areas. Ordinarily, men from Siberia and the Ural Mountain
regions left first, and Ukrainians departed last. After receipt of the
demobilization order by the unit, demobilization would take place over
a one or two-month period. Sergeants and privates being demobilized
would depart together.

In 1953, demobilization in the 55th Sep Tk Tng Bn occurred in 25X1
October and November. [redacted] men from the Moscow oblast'
departed on 10 November 1953. The demobilized men were from the 1931 class.

In October and November 1952, the privates and the sergeants of 25X1
the class of 1930 were demobilized. [redacted] in the 55th Sep
Tk Tng Bn in November 1951, the class of 1929 had already been demobilized.
All demobilized personnel of his unit returned through the 67th Repl Depot.

[redacted] all personnel 25X1
of all demobilized classes returned to the USSR.

The only personnel retained past the above demobilization
schedule were extended tour soldiers (sverkhsrochniki).⁶

[redacted] all demobilized personnel 25X1
became part of the general reserve manpower pool.

[redacted] all demobilized personnel were subject to recall as long as they 25X1
were physically qualified. [redacted] in
World War II, men over 50 and 60 were called for military service if they
were physically able.

11. Reserve Training

[redacted] demobilized privates had no further contact with 25X1
the military after demobilization but [redacted] demobilized sergeants and 25X1
officers were called to yearly assemblies at the regional voyenkomat.

[redacted] this occurred in the summer and [redacted] the assemblies lasted two weeks. 25X1
They were held for the purpose of refresher training of specialists and
orientation of all the demobilized sergeants and officers in new military
techniques. [redacted] this was in no way to be considered 25X1
reserve unit training

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12. Personnel Returned to the USSR Prior to Completion of Servicea. Medical Reasons

[redacted] there were at least five men returned from the 55th Sep Tk Tng Bn to the USSR for medical reasons. Two were senior lieutenants who had developed tuberculosis. the other three were enlisted cadre men. [redacted] personnel were returned directly from the hospital through the 67th Repl Depot and [redacted] reasons for their return were not generally known.

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[redacted] one man [redacted] was returned for what would be construed as mental illness. This man attempted suicide [redacted]

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[redacted] He was sent to the hospital with a fractured skull, multiple fractures of one leg, and two fractured ribs. He was later sent to the USSR when it was discovered that one leg would always remain lame.

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[redacted] personnel were returned to the USSR when the degree of injury or illness precluded normal military activity as in the case of the three individuals cited above.

b. Compassionate Reasons

[redacted] two men who were given compassionate leaves to the USSR. One, a major, was allowed to return when his father died in 1953, and a junior sergeant, was permitted to return on leave when he heard that his mother was ill and was allowed to go again on leave when she had died. He had both leaves during the summer of 1953. [redacted] this type of leave was very unusual but was granted in this case because the junior sergeant was considered one of the outstanding soldiers of the battalion.

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c. Political Reasons

[redacted] whenever anyone was returned to the USSR without an obvious reason, it was immediately assumed that it was for political unreliability. [redacted] three such cases. One was a sergeant, Kaliner, (fau), a Jew, who spoke excellent German. This man was [redacted] battalion librarian. [redacted] departed on 22 March 1952 prior to completion of a normal tour in Austria [redacted]

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sometime in 1953, a letter arrived in the battalion finance section from an unknown army unit in Bryansk, with a routine inquiry regarding issue of clothing for this sergeant. It was assumed [redacted] that the sergeant had been transferred home and was serving in a unit in Bryansk.

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The other two men who were returned in 1952 for unknown cause were two trainees of the 1st Tng Co. [redacted]

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[redacted] it had been discovered that both men were members of an unknown subversive organization. A letter came later in 1952 on the issue of some item for one of the men. [redacted] the letter was signed by the man's new CO and assumed that the man was serving in an unknown unit in the USSR. (Note: [redacted] it was not unusual for these men to be transferred to other army units.)

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d. Other Reasons

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two officers and two EM who were transferred to other assignments in the USSR. One officer, a senior lieutenant Shanskiy (fnu), was sent as an instructor to an unknown tank school in Ulyanovsk (N 54-20, E 48-24) in 1953. [redacted] this was an officers' school. This officer's replacement, a Captain Gerasimov (fnu), arrived from the same school where he too had served as an instructor.

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The other officer, a senior lieutenant, was transferred to his family to Austria. [redacted] this was a normal transfer but [redacted] everyone in the battalion thought that the senior lieutenant had been harshly dealt with because of his unpopularity with the Bn Deputy CO for Political Affairs. [redacted] was a popular officer who hated and avoided political work and [redacted] had upbraided the political officer for being a sycophant and an informer.

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The two EM were members of the second class of the Reserve Officers Candidate Training Platoon of the 1st Tng Co who had failed their final examination. They were sent to the Military Institute of Foreign Languages located in either Moscow or Leningrad.

[redacted] the course lasted four years.)

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three other men who had been returned. One was a private (name unknown) of the 15th Gds Tk Regt who had been returned after deliberately shooting himself in the chest with a PPSH SMG. The other two were privates [redacted] were sent through the 67th Repl Depot for excessive drunkenness in April 1953. (Note: [redacted] in spite of the restrictions against drinking and against leaving the area by draftees, violation of both restrictions was a very common occurrence

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[redacted] it was impossible to specify the degree of political unreliability for which a man would be returned to the USSR. [redacted] it depended on the CO, the political officer, and the man himself. As an example, [redacted] the two privates who had been reputed members of an unknown subversive organization listed in paragraph A 12 c, this report.

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[redacted] it was far more dangerous for [redacted] a member of the Komsomol, a sergeant, and a fairly well-educated city dweller, to argue with a political officer during a lecture than it would have been for a soldier who had been a simple collective farmer and a private. [redacted] possession of subversive or anti-regime literature would undoubtedly return a man to the USSR and put him in a concentration camp for at least 25 years.

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[redacted] any one of the following would return a man to the USSR and result in immediate imprisonment:

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(1) Suspicion of any type of liaison with the Austrian civilian population. This was understood to be sufficient grounds for immediate return.

(2) Court Martial - All personnel who were court martialed were returned.

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[redacted] it was simply understood by everyone.

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(3) Self-inflicted wounds to avoid military duty.

(4) Disrespect for seniors in rank or komendatura patrols would be sufficient cause not only for return, but for a prison sentence of up to eight years.

(5) Black marketeering was a prison offense

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(6) Fighting or disorderly conduct.

(7) Stealing of either Soviet or Austrian property.

(8) AWOL for longer than two hours was considered desertion and warranted a prison sentence up to 25 years. (Less than two hours for the first offense would put a man in the guard house up to two weeks.) A second offense even if less than two hours was also considered desertion and was punishable as such.

(9) Excessive drunkenness was cause for immediate return but no prison sentence.

(10) Murder, arson, rape, and sabotage were all punishable by prison sentences of up to 25 years.

e. Method of Return to USSR

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Patients were normally returned through the 67th Repl Depot. All officers and extended tour soldiers were returned through Vienna on passenger trains; all other sergeants and privates went through the 67th Repl Depot and rode troop freight trains.

He had heard that all replacement depots had attached as part of the organization an escort company (rota Soprov-zhdeniya) to conduct such troop trains. These companies were normally made up of personnel from all the units near the depot.

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13. Personnel Replacements

Officers who departed for the USSR upon completion of normal tour or duty generally had their replacement for at least a month prior to departure. An officer replacement usually arrived from the USSR at the unit two or three days after an officer had received his orders. Sergeants were replaced by graduating trainees in the two training companies or from another regiment in the division. Cadre privates were replaced by men from the training companies if they were specialists, or directly by new arrivals if they were non-specialists. Generally, in all the units in Austria, privates were not replaced by new arrivals until two to four weeks following their departure.

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B. RECALL OF RESERVE OFFICERS TO ACTIVE DUTY

all officers on active duty with the army were considered regulars.

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C. LABOR SERVICE

all labor service was under the control of the Ministry of Defense but that the actual selection of personnel for this

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service was performed by the regional voyenkomats.

Graduates of factory work schools (FZO - Fabrichno-Zavodskoye Obucheniye) were called into military service if their post-school employment was not considered critical. For example, personnel employed by the Ministry of Defense at an aviation plant were exempt from all military service if they remained in that type of work. [redacted] other graduates of FZO were guaranteed by law to work for a minimum of four years in their specialty in a draft-exempt status but this did not work in practice, as he had friends who had graduated from FZO and had been called in three years after graduation. 25X1

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in September 1953 Bulganin, the Minister of Defense, announced in both military and civilian newspapers that all men liable for induction would be called and all who were due to be demobilized would be demobilized.

D. UTILIZATION OF WOMEN IN THE SOVIET ARMY

1. Assignment

In the 13th Gds Mecz Div Medical Bn all nurses and orderlies were women. The Auto School and the U/1 Mort Regt near his unit both had several women. There were women assigned to postal units, and to all regiments of the division. All waitresses of the Div Hq officer's mess were EW. 25X1

[redacted] in Vienna [redacted] a female Soviet Army lieutenant colonel (branch unknown). Another was a Sr Lt who worked with the 4th Komendatura of the battalion of the 95th Gds Rifle Div [redacted] as German interpreter.⁸ This woman wore narrow silver shoulderboards with black piping. (The male Komendatura officers all wore infantry shoulderboards.) 25X1

[redacted] only woman [redacted] with the Soviet forces in Austria that was not military was a nurse in the Medical Bn who was a volunteer female civilian employee (vol'nonayemnaya)

[redacted] women were assigned to all units of separate battalion size and larger in the Soviet army. 25X1

Women were assigned to all forms of administrative work, as waitresses, hospital orderlies, nurses, and librarians.

[redacted] women received no military training in either Austria or the USSR. 25X1

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2. Pay

[redacted] EW received much higher pay than male conscriptees. The EW who was assigned as librarian at the Auto School received 900 Austrian schillings a month and had an additional 500 rubles deposited in her military savings book. Another woman who was assigned as a waitress in the officers' mess at the 13th Gds Mecz Div Hq received 1200 Austrian schillings per month and an additional unknown amount in rubles accredited in her pay book. The woman assigned [redacted] as medical corpswoman, but who had worked as a waitress in the battalion officers' mess, received 500 schillings per month and had an additional unknown amount of rubles deposited. These women were paid through the unit finance officer the same as officers and sverkhstrochniki.

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3. Service

The women [redacted] claimed to have been inducted involuntarily.

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[redacted] the term of service for women was identical as for men; they were inducted for three years.

[redacted] Many women did not complete their three years of service because of pregnancy. (Often, officers who were responsible for a woman's expectant condition made arrangements with the battalion surgeon for an abortion. This was not openly condoned by the authorities but no one ever made an issue of it.)

4. Privileges and Status

[redacted] the position of women in the Soviet army was comparable to that of sverkhstrochniki. The main difference was that women still drew the same quality of uniforms as other drafted personnel on their first tour whereas sverkhstrochniki received uniforms of much better cut and quality.

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Service women normally lived in the officers' communal quarters in separate rooms. They had a choice of eating in the officers' mess and paying an additional fee as did the officers, or of eating in the EM mess and paying nothing. They could also prepare their own meals and receive a regular ration allowance. This allowance was based on the estimated cost to the Soviet government for feeding a soldier, eight or nine rubles a day. When the women rationed separately, they had the privilege of using the community dependent kitchen.

[redacted] service women very rarely ate in the enlisted messes because of the poor quality of the food.

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EW drew their equipment and uniforms directly from the unit supply warehouse (OVS). Their uniforms were identical to the male conscripts except that skirts were issued instead of trousers. The shoulderboards were the same as that of the men in their unit. Since August 1953, EW were permitted to wear civilian clothes off duty as were officers.

EW were permitted to leave the post with the permission of the CO. They normally dated officers and very rarely EM. They were escorted by the officers to the unit motion picture theatre and to any social functions that officers had. This dating was not considered in the same light as officer-EM fraternization; and, as long as the conduct of the women was not openly poor, nothing was said or done.

There were instances where women were involved in acts that required punishment but they were generally punished very lightly and never court-martialed. One such incident occurred prior to August 1953, when the female enlisted librarian of the Auto School appeared in civilian clothes. She was reprimanded, instructed to change into uniform, and put in the guardhouse for three hours. This same woman was placed under arrest in the guardhouse in 1952 for failure to show up for evening roll call. This was also a very short confinement amounting to only about four hours. The duty officer who was responsible for her arrest was severely reprimanded by the commandant of the Auto School as this woman had never

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been required to attend any formations. The same woman was given a radio as a gift by one of the officers of the Auto School for "services rendered". The radio was taken from her by the commandant and created quite a scandal not because of the reason for which she received it but rather because of the type of gift it was.

The EW who was the officers' mess waitress [redacted] was also involved in an awkward situation. In fall 1953 when the chief of staff reported to the battalion CO that there were several officers absent without permission, the battalion CO called a special alert for officers only. After the officers were assembled, it was discovered that the Deputy CO for Political Affairs, Lt. Col. Matvey Danilovich Konarev was absent. A search was made for him and the battalion commander went to the waitress's room and knocked on her door. When the woman answered the door, bystanders could see Lt. Col. Konarev dressed only in his boots and shirt. The battalion commander turned and left and the woman closed the door. The other officers then began to hammer at the door and finally broke it open with a fire axe. They then began to call the political officer names and to remark that he was a fine one to be talking about their morals.

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[redacted] the political officer stayed out of sight for about two weeks after the incident; and [redacted] when he appeared in public, he was a changed man. Before he had been harsh and unreasonable. After the incident, he tried to regain his prestige with the men by telling shady jokes at his lectures and became very understanding in cases of minor delinquency.

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Generally the men resented the position held by EW. They were jealous of their better pay and living conditions and resented their association with officers. They were often called "ground sheets" (podkladka) to their faces and often, when an army woman walked by a formation, the first sergeant would call the company to attention and run over to the woman and make a mock report.

[redacted] it was not unusual for officers to continue their extra-marital relationship with army women even after their dependents arrived. An outstanding example, he said, was the Post Special Section Officer (counterintelligence), a senior lieutenant who kept on visiting a nurse after his wife arrived. [redacted] no one took any action due to the officer's powerful position, even though the situation was a matter of common knowledge.

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E. MILITARY DISTRICTS

[redacted] military districts of the USSR:

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Moscow (Moskovskiy), Gor'kiy (Gor'kovskiy), Leningrad (Leningradskiy), Pri Baltic (Pri-Baltiyskiy), Kiev (Kiyevskiy), Carpathian (Karpatskiy), Odessa (Odesskiy), Caucasus (Kavkazkiy), Ural (Ural'skiy), he was less certain of the White Russian (Belo-Russkiy) and Minsk (Minskiy).

[redacted] might be the same as Gorki MD.

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1 Annex:

- A. Railroad Routes Travelled During Movements to Basic Training and to Duty in Austria.

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Comment:

these women

One of these women was the librarian of the Auto School of the 13th Gds. Mecz. Div.

She came from Kazan' (N 48-01, E 33-03), USSR. she had had no basic training and her term of service was three years.

The other EW was the officers' dining room orderly

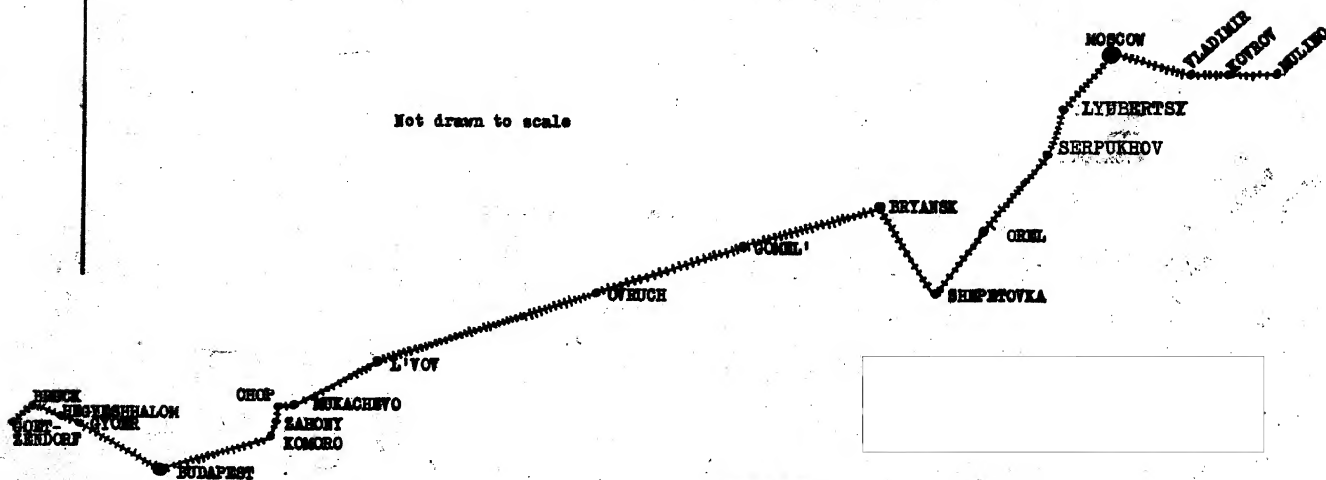
8.

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Railroad Routes Travelled During Movements to Basic Training and to Duty in Austria

Not drawn to scale



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